

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 have been amended. Claims 4, 9, 13, and 17 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18 remain in this application.

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the drawings. Applicants have amended claim 15 to overcome this rejection. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's helpfulness.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the form of the specification. Applicants are unsure if the Examiner objects to the use of the acronym JRO or the use of the word "represents" at line 1, page 7 of the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to replace the word "represents" with the word "is" in the hopes of addressing the Examiner's concerns. Beyond that, the acronym JRO, which stands for the phrase Journal Receiver Object, appears well defined and supported to Applicants. Nevertheless, Applicants stand willing to work with the Examiner should he feel further clarification is necessary.

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the feature, "selecting a current oldest transaction and then adjusting the priority of the job or jobs associated with the oldest transaction so that more than one job can operate with an adjusted priority," does not reasonably provide enablement for the feature "*selects therefrom a current oldest transaction for which to adjust priority such that more than one transaction can be adjusted to operate with an adjusted priority.*" While different statutory grounds have been used, and appropriately so, the same issue also underlies the rejections of sections 7, 11, and 12 of the Examiner's Office Action. Applicants have canceled claims 4, 9, 13, and 17.

Appl. No. 10/021,945
Amdt. Dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

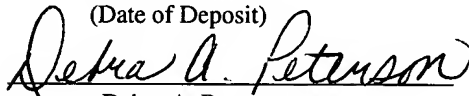
In section 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the feature, in claim 15, “receiving a journal related request to create a new journal entry or to delete a journal receiver object,” does not reasonably provide enablement for the feature “*receiving a journal related request for a journal.*” Independent claim 15 has been amended to address the Examiner’s concerns and thereby overcome this rejection.

In section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to address the Examiner’s concerns and thereby overcome this rejection. Applicants have added the language by reducing allocated journal space, such that the last clause of the amended claims now reads “adjusting transaction priority to decrease transaction time and thereby permit more efficient journal space utilization by reducing allocated journal space.” Applicants feel that the necessary structure is provided by reference to the journal space itself.

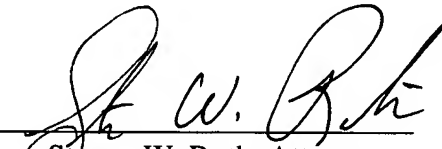
Appl. No. 10/021,945
Amdt. Dated August 5, 20043
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-16, and 18) are in condition for allowance and that the application should be passed to issue. The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would expedite or aid in the prosecution of this application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

August 5, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Debra A. Peterson

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Steven W. Roth, Attorney
Attorney Reg. No.: 34,712
IBM Corporation, Dept 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901-7829
Telephone: (507) 253-1600